(b) if so, whether their problems have been ascertained from all States before finalising the SSI policy; and

(c) the steps taken to assist them in technology front for modernisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) Policy measures already exist for promoting and strengthening small, tiny and village enterprises which were announced by the Government on the 6th August, 1991. The government continues to lay emphasis on meeting the concerns of the small and tiny sectors. In this regard, interaction with State Governments is a continuous process.

(c) In order to assist small units to upgrade technology for modernisation, emphasis has been laid on strengthening existing technological facilities availbale through Tool Rooms, Product cum Process Development Centres, Regional Testing Centres etc. Assistance is also provided to obtain ISO 9000 certification. The Technology Development and Modernisation Fund of SIDBI and the Technology Upgradation Programme run by the National Small Industries Corporation also assist the SSI units to upgrade their technology.

**Separate policy for the small scale and tiny sectors**

2433. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are examining the possibility of formulating a separate policy for the small scale and tiny sectors in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether small scale industries and tiny sectors are not properly encouraged by Government to boost their products etc; and

(d) if so, to what extent the new policy will help SSIs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) Policy measure already exist for promoting

and strengthening Small, Tiny and Village Enterprises, which were announced by the Government on 6th August, 1991. The Government continues to lay emphasis on meeting the concerns of the small & tiny sectors.

(c) and (d) Promotion of Small Scale Industries and Tiny Sectors has been one of the conscious policies of the Government. A large number of schemes are being implemented for their promotion: these include technology upgradation, market development, entrepreneurship development, infrastructure development and creating of I.T. infrastructure. SSI Credit comes under the priority sector lending of the banks. 60% of the priority sector credit going to SSI Sector is reserved for tiny units. In addition, several measures have been announced in the Budget 2000-2001 to improve the supply of credit to this sector. These include raising the limit of loan without collateral from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakhs, doubling the quantum of Single Window Composite Loan (both term loan and working capital) from Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 10 lakhs, extending the operation of Technology Development and Modernization Fund Scheme by another 3 years and the Credit Guaranteed Scheme for loans up to Rs. 10 lakhs to the tiny sector entrepreneurs.

**KVIC in Punjab**

2434. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Punjab where people have been engaged by the KVIC;

(b) the details of villages where KVIC, is making production and workers employed; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for expansion of such industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) In 12428 villages of Punjab, 1.73 lakh people have been engaged in production of Khadi and Village industries.